

What is claimed is:

1. A gas detecting element comprising:

a hollow container;

an optical density detection window that is not gas-permeable formed on one  
5 side of said container to allow optical density detection;  
a gas-permeable window formed on the opposing side of said container; and  
a reagent that exhibits coloration by reaction with a gas to be measured housed  
in a space between said windows.

10 2. A gas detecting element in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

said optical density detection window is constituted by affixing a transparent,  
non-permeable film to a frame that constitutes said container.

3. A gas detecting element in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

15 said optical density detection window is formed at the same time as injection  
molding of said container with a transparent, non-permeable material.

4. A gas detecting element in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

20 a reagent absorbent material impregnated with said reagent is housed in said  
space.

5. A gas detecting element in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

a light-reflective surface is formed on the side of said gas-permeable window  
facing said reagent absorbent material.

6. A gas detecting device comprising:

a gas exposure portion that opens to a sampling flow path; and

an optical density measuring portion provided with a light-emitting means

facing said exposure portion and light receiving means,

5       wherein said exposure portion and said optical density measuring portion are oppositely disposed in a separateable manner, and a gas detecting element is housed so that a gas inflow side of the gas detecting element faces the gas exposure portion and an optical density detection portion of the gas detecting element faces said optical density measuring portion.

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7. A gas detecting device according to claim 6, wherein said optical density detection portion and said gas detecting element are constituted so as to maintain airtightness.